

Chapters Twenty-Six through Twenty-Eight

Standards Focus: Theme in Context

Theme is the central idea or message in a work of literature. The theme of a piece of literature should not be confused with the subject of the work, but rather, theme is a general statement about life or human nature. Most themes are not completely obvious and must be inferred by the reader. A reader must take a good look at the entire novel: the title, plot, characters, setting, and mood, which all work together to reveal the themes in a piece of literature.

Directions: For each of the following themes from the novel, find an appropriate quote or incident from the text that best exemplifies or illustrates that particular theme. You may choose your incident or quote from anywhere in the text.

1. Theme: *Prejudice is a disease with deep and far-reaching roots.*

Incident or Quote: _____

2. Theme: *Before you can judge someone, you must walk a mile in his shoes.*

Incident or Quote: _____

3. Theme: *Racism is kept alive through fear and ignorance.*

Incident or Quote: _____

4. Theme: *True courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to proceed in spite of it.*

Incident or Quote: _____

5. Theme: *What you see is not always the truth.*

Incident or Quote: _____

